

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER

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TO

MR. JAMES PAUL COBBETT,

AT NEW YORK,

On the Death of Mr. ARTHUR

THISTLEWOOD, JAMES INGS,

WILLIAM DAVIDSON, JOHN

THOMAS BRUNT, and RICH-

ARD TIDD, *condemned for*

High Treason; and executed

in London, on Monday, the

1st of May, 1820.

London, 2d May, 1820.

MY DEAR SON,

I told you, many weeks back, that this country was in such a state, that it was impossible for the wisest man in it to be able to say, on any day, what would happen the next day.

The *Six Acts*, which were passed in December last, were, it was said, intended to insure the *peace and harmony* of the country. They have answered no such end; and, as you will have

seen, long before you will see this, *smothered thoughts* are much more troublesome to a government than thoughts which are freely uttered.

Numerous proofs of this might be produced; and another long lesson might be read to the foes of the press. But, at present, I shall, in addressing you, confine myself to an account of an event which has just taken place, and which has deeply interested, and which will long interest, every soul in this kingdom; and which has, indeed, produced a *shock* in the public mind, greater than any other, which this kingdom has felt for more than a century past.

I send you *THE TRIALS*, as published by Messrs. Clement and Benbow, in an octavo form. Read them carefully through; and pray give them to some

printer, who will *re-publish* them in America, together with the observations and the account which I now address to you. These Trials will give you and the American public a pretty correct notion of *the things intended to be done* by the Conspirators; their *motives* you must gather from their own declarations; and these you will find in the account, which I shall presently insert for your and the public's perusal.

To do *justice* to the memory of the dead is one of those acts, which must receive the applause of all good men. None but black-hearted villains would ever wish that such acts should not be performed. By *justice* I do not mean the *bestowing of praise* merely: what I mean is, the speaking of *truth* of the dead. Setting them forth and sending them down to posterity in their *true* light. And I say, that any man, who is an enemy to this, is a villain.

The mode that I shall pur-

sue, in order to effect this object, as far as I am able, is to give you, from other public prints, or from relations which are undeniably true, an account of what passed at the condemnation and execution of Mr. THISTLEWOOD and his associates. And, it is the more necessary to do this, as it is notorious that, from the moment of their apprehension to the day of their trial, the daily press of London and the Country Newspapers, had been teeming with the most shocking abuse of them. In these vehicles they had continually been described as *murderers, assassins, blood-thirsty monsters*, and as every thing calculated to excite public hatred against them; while no man, who had the smallest regard for his own safety, dared to utter a syllable, tending to stem this torrent of cruel calumny; or even to hint at the *possibility* of the calumniated persons being innocent of wicked intention. At last, however,

they are *dead*; and we may now, surely, be permitted to relate, to peruse, to remember, and to think of, their *dying declarations*. If we find it prudent to refrain from saying any thing ourselves, we may, surely, repeat to one another what the Conspirators said for themselves. We may, too, point out to one another, the import and tendency of particular parts of their declarations; and see whether these agree with the principles and motives which have been imputed to the Conspirators.

There is another reason for this, besides that of doing *justice* to the dead; namely, to shew the falseness of the pretence, that this Conspiracy rose out of the *instigation of the press*. The moment this Conspiracy was discovered, the corrupt part of the press began a new howl against "*seditions and blasphemous publications*." This was done, in order to pave the way for urging the ne-

cessity of still further restraints on that part of the press which still stood out for Reform. What *further* could have been done, or can be done, short of a *Bourbon Censorship*, it would be hard to say. But that this was the motive of the writers in question there can be no doubt. It is, therefore, of great importance to shew, that the Conspirators were actuated by things, with which the Radical Press had had nothing to do. Every effort possible has, as you will see, been made to trace the conspiracy to the press; and, as you will also see, all these efforts have failed.

You will bear these things in mind as you read the *Trials*. And here, I should tell you, that I believe *we never should have had the Trials in print at all*, had it not been for Mr. CLEMENT, the Proprietor of the OBSERVER newspaper. The Court, on the opening of the Commission, issued an order, forbidding any publication of

the evidence, *until the whole of the trials should be ended.* In consequence of this, the *daily* papers published nothing but *garbled sketches* of the proceedings; and, therefore, the public in general had no means of coming at any thing like the truth. But, when the first *Sunday* came, by means of a double sheet of his immense newspaper, Mr. C. sent forth *the whole* of the trials of Mr. THISTLEWOOD and of INGS! And for this the Judges ordered him to pay a *fine to the King* of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS. He had no *trial* you will observe: no *jury* had any thing to do with the matter: it was a fine, inflicted by the Judges themselves, on their authority as Judges.

Whether Mr. CLEMENT will make a stand against this is more than I can say; but, at any rate, the *relations of the prisoners* have, as Mr. CLEMENT says, expressed *their satisfaction* at his conduct; and, I am decidedly of opinion, that,

had it not been for him, these trials never would have been placed within the reach of the Labouring Classes of the people. And yet, was it not desirable that *they*, in particular, should be made fully and speedily acquainted with *all* that was brought out at these trials?

Bear these things in mind as you read the trials. *Observe well who the witnesses are;* and pay particular attention to all that is said about EDWARDS. Observe, too, that the CONSPIRATORS were not convicted upon the *Old*, but upon the *New*, Treason-Law. The Old Law of Treason was all embodied in one act, passed in the reign of King EDWARD THE THIRD. But, during PITT'S administration, in 1796, no longer than *twenty-four years ago*, a new Treason-Law, brought in by Lord GRENVILLE, was passed, to last *during the life of the late King*. This law was, in 1817, by another act, made to extend to the end of the life of the

Prince Regent, and made applicable to him as well as the King. This law makes it High-Treason to *conspire to use force to compel the King to change his measures*. According to this law, it is High-Treason to *conspire to use force, or to urge by writing, to use force to over-awe either House of Parliament*. This was the law on which the conviction of these Conspirators took place; and not, as has been asserted, on the laws that have been "in existence in this country for ages."

Having said this much by way of preface, I shall now suppose you to have read the Trials attentively, and shall give you an account of the DEATH of the Five Conspirators, beginning with what passed at

THE CONDEMNATION.

Sentence of Death passed upon the Conspirators.

Friday.

This morning, at a quarter after nine, Lord Chief Justice

Abbott, Lord Chief Justice Dallas, the Chief Baron, Mr. Justice Richards, Mr. Justice Best, and the Common Serjeant, took their seats.

Mr. Brown, the gaoler, was immediately requested to bring the prisoners to the bar. In a few minutes the clank of chains was heard, and the eleven prisoners entered the court. They were all double ironed, with the exception of Ings, who has been much indisposed since his conviction. Thistlewood came first, and advanced to the bar. There was a melancholy resignation in his countenance. He appeared considerably altered since the last time of his being in court.

All being in readiness,

Mr. Shelton (the clerk of the arraigns), addressing himself to Thistlewood, said, — "Arthur Thistlewood, you stand convicted of high treason: what have you to say why you should not receive judgment to die, according to law?"

Thistlewood immediately drew forth a manuscript address, which he proceeded to read in a mournful tone, and with a strong provincial accent, as follows:

“ My Lords,—I am asked, my Lord, what I have to say that judgment of death should not be passed upon me according to law. This to me is mockery—for were the reasons I could offer incontrovertible, and were they enforced even by the eloquence of a Cicero, still would the vengeance of my Lords Castlereagh and Sidmouth be satiated only in the purple stream which circulates through a heart more enthusiastically vibrating to the impulse of patriotism and honor, than that of any of those privileged * * * to their country, who lord it over the lives and property of the sovereign people with barefaced impunity. The reasons which I have, however, I will now state—not that I entertain the slightest hope from your sense of justice or from your pity. The former is

swallowed up in your ambition, or rather by the servility you descend to, to obtain the object of that ambition—the latter I despise. Justice I demand. If I am denied it, your pity is no equivalent. In the first place,

“ I protest against the proceedings upon my trial, which I conceive to be grossly partial, and contrary to the very spirit of justice,—but, alas! the judges who have heretofore been considered the counsel of the accused, are now, without exception, in all cases between the crown and the people, the most implacable enemies of the latter. In every instance the judges charge the jury to find the subject guilty; nay, in one instance, the jury received a reprimand, and that not in the genteeldest terms, for not strictly obeying the imperious mandate from the bench.

“ The court decided upon my trial * * * rather than depart in the slightest degree from its usual forms. Nay, it is

with me a question, if the form is usual which precluded me from examining witnesses to prove the infamy of Adams, of Hiden, and of Dwyer. Ere the Solicitor-General replied to the address of my counsel, I applied to the court to hear my witnesses. The court inhumanly refused, and I am in consequence to be consigned to the scaffold. Numerous have been the instances in which this rule of court has been infringed; but to have infringed it in my case would have been to incur the displeasure of the court, and to forfeit every aspiring hope of promotion. A few hours hence and I shall be no more: but the nightly breeze which will whistle over the silent grave that shall protect me from its keenness, will bear to your restless pillow the memory of one who lived but for his country,—and died when liberty and justice had been driven from its confines by a set of * * * * *

For life, as it respects myself, I care not; but while yet I may, I would rescue my memory from the calumny which I doubt not will be industriously heaped upon it, when it will be no longer in my power to protect it.

“ I would explain the motives which induced me to conspire against the ministers of his Majesty, and I would contrast them with those which these very ministers have acted upon in leading me to my ruin. To do this, it will be necessary to take a short review of my life for a few months prior to my arrest for the offence for which I am to be executed without a trial—or at least, without an impartial one, by a jury of my peers.

“ ’Tis true, the form, the etiquette of a trial has been gone through; but I challenge any of the judges on the bench to tell me, to tell my country, that justice was not denied me in the very place where justice only should be administered. I challenge them to say that I was fairly tried. I challenge them

to say if I am not murdered according to the etiquette of a court (falsely denominated) of justice. I had witnesses in court to prove that Dwyer was a villain beyond all example of atrocity. I had witnesses in court to prove that Adams was a notorious swindler, and that Hiden was no better; these were the three witnesses, indeed, almost the only ones against me; but the form and rules of court must not be infringed upon to save an unfortunate individual from the scaffold.

"I called those witnesses at the close of Mr. Adolphus's address to the jury, and before the Solicitor-General commenced his reply, but the court decided that they could not be heard. Some good men have thought, and I have thought so too, that before the jury retired, all evidence was in time for either the prosecutor or the accused, and more particularly for the latter; nay, even before the verdict was given, that evidence could

not be considered too late. Alas! such people drew their conclusion from principles of justice only—they never canvassed the rules of court which have finally sealed my unhappy doom!

"Many people who are acquainted with the barefaced manner in which I was plundered by my Lord Sidmouth, will, perhaps, imagine that personal motives instigated me to the deed; but I disclaim them. My every principle was for the prosperity of my country. My every feeling—the height of my ambition was the welfare of my starving countrymen. I keenly felt for their miseries: but when their miseries are laughed at, and when, because they dared to express those miseries, they were * * * * * my feelings became too intense, too excessive for endurance, and I resolved on vengeance—I resolved that the lives of the instigators should be the requiem to the souls of the murdered innocents.

“ In this mood I met with George Edwards. And if any doubt should remain upon the minds of the public, whether the deed I meditated was virtuous, or contrary, the tale I will now relate will convince them, that in attempting to exercise a power which the law had ceased to have, I was only wreaking national vengeance on a set of wretches unworthy the name or character of men. This Edwards, poor and pennyless, lived near Picket-street, in the Strand, some time ago, without a bed to lie upon, or a chair to sit in. Straw was his resting place: his only covering a blanket. Owing to his bad character, and his swindling conduct, he was driven from thence by his landlord. It is not my intention to trace him through his immorality—suffice it to say that he was in every sense of the word a villain of the deepest atrocity. His landlord refused to give him a character. Some short time after this he called upon his landlord again; but mark the change in his appearance—dressed like a lord, in all the folly of the reigning fashion. He now described himself as the right heir to a German Baron, who had been some time dead; that Lords Castlereagh and Sidmouth had acknowledged his claims to the title and property, had interfered in his behalf with the German government, and supplied him with money to support his rank in society. From this period I date his career as a government spy.

He got himself an introduction to the Spenceans—by what means I am not aware of—and thus he became acquainted with the reformers in general. When I met with Edwards after the massacre at Manchester, he described himself as very poor; and after several interviews, he proposed a plan for blowing up the House of Commons. This was not my view—I wished to punish the guilty only, and therefore I declined it. He next

proposed that we should attack the ministers at the *fete* given by the Spanish Ambassador. This I resolutely opposed, because the innocent would perish with the guilty; besides, there were ladies invited to the entertainment, and I, who am shortly to ascend to the scaffold, shuddered with horror at the idea of that, a sample of which had previously been given by the agents of government at Manchester, and which the ministers of his Majesty applauded. Edwards was ever at invention; and at length he proposed attacking them at a cabinet dinner. I asked where were the means to carry his project into effect? He replied, If I would accede, we should not want for means. He was as good as his word; from him came, notwithstanding his apparent penury, the money provided for purchasing the stores which your Lordships have seen produced in court upon my trial. He who was never possessed of money

to pay for a pint of beer, had always plenty to purchase arms or ammunition. Amongst the conspirators he was ever the most active; ever inducing people to join him, up to the last hour, ere the undertaking was discovered.

" I had witnesses in Court who could prove they went to Cato-street, by appointment with Edwards, with no other knowledge or motive than that of passing an evening amongst his friends. I could also have proved that subsequent to the fatal transaction, when we met in Holborn, he endeavoured to induce two or three of my companions to set fire to houses and buildings, in various parts of the metropolis. I could prove that subsequent to that again, he endeavoured to induce men to throw hand grenades into the carriages of ministers as they passed through the streets; and yet this man, the contriver, the instigator, the entrapper, is screened from justice and from

exposure, by those very men who seek vengeance against the victims of his and their villainy. To the Attorney and Solicitor General I cannot impute the clearest motives. Their object seems to me to have been rather to obtain a verdict against me than to obtain a full and fair exposition of the whole affair since its commencement. If their object was justice alone, why not bring forward Edwards as a witness, if not as an accomplice; but no, they knew that by keeping Edwards in the back ground, my proofs—aye, my incontrovertible proofs of his being a hired spy, the suggester and promoter, must, according to no rules of court, also be excluded.

“ Edwards and his accomplices arranged matters in such a manner as that his services might be dispensed with on the trial, and thus were the jury cut off from every chance of ascertaining the real truth. Adams, Hiden, and Dwyer, were the

agents of Edwards, and truly he made a most admirable choice, for their invention seems to be inexhaustible. With respect to the immorality of our project, I will just observe, that the assassination of a tyrant has always been deemed a meritorious action. Brutus and Cassius were lauded to the very skies for slaying Cæsar; indeed, when any man, or any set of men, place themselves above the laws of their country, there is no other means of bringing them to justice than through the arms of a private individual. If the laws are not strong enough to prevent them from murdering the community, it becomes the duty of every member of that community to rid his country of its oppressors.

“ High treason was committed against the people at Manchester, but justice was closed against the mutilated, the maimed, and the friends of those who were upon that occasion indiscriminately * * *

* * * * *

* Albion is still in the chains of slavery—I quit it without regret—I shall soon be consigned to the grave—my body will be immured beneath the soil whereon I first drew breath. My only sorrow is, that the soil should be a theatre for slaves, for cowards, for despots. My motives, I doubt not, will be justly appreciated. I will therefore now conclude by stating, that I shall consider myself as murdered, if I am to be executed on the verdict obtained against me, by the refusal of the Court to hear my evidence. I could have proved Dwyer to be a villain of the blackest dye, for, since my trial, an accomplice of his, named Arnold, has been capitally convicted at this very bar, for obtaining money under circumstances of an infamous nature.

“ I seek not pity ; I demand but justice : I have not had a

fair trial, and upon that ground I protest that judgment ought not be passed against me.”

Mr. Shelton next addressed himself to Davidson, and put to him the same question which he had put to Thistlewood. Davidson advanced, and spoke to the following effect :—

“ My Lords, you ask me what I have to say why I should not receive judgment to die for what has been said against me ? I answer that I protest against the proceedings in this trial in toto. In the first place, I always thought that in a court of justice the balance of justice was held with an even hand. But this has not been the case with me ; I stand here helpless and friendless. I endeavour to shew that the evidence against me was contradictory and incredible, and I hoped I had made an impression on the gentlemen in the box ; but the moment I was done, the Attorney-General got up, and told them that the evidence was pure and uncontaminated, and

to this I may add, that Mr. Baron Garrow almost insisted that they should pronounce me guilty. I would ask, has any person identified me but the officers? who, every one knows, have at all times been instrumental to the death of innocent persons. I do not now plead for my life; I know I must fall a victim to the vengeance of my enemies. But in what manner have I been guilty of high treason? It would seem I was a silent spectator; none of the witnesses impute to me a single observation. Now is this probable? I had always got a great deal to say for myself, consequently I was not the person who would stand by without uttering a word; and yet such has been the testimony of Adams. Then, with regard to the blunderbuss, I have already explained that this was not mine, and that I acted in that affair entirely as the agent of Edwards. I have also declared how I came by the sword, and I now declare upon my soul,

which will shortly appear before its maker, that I never made any blow at any man, or discharged any carbine. As for Munday, the man who swore that I had a long sword, with a pair of pistols in my girdle, who is he? He is a poor labouring man who comes here for his day's pay and his victuals to swear away the life of a fellow creature, and to support the unfounded charge against me that I meant to assassinate his Majesty's ministers. I appeal to any man, whether it is upon such evidence the life of an innocent man is to be sacrificed? But even supposing, for the sake of argument, that the lives of his Majesty's ministers were threatened, it did not follow that this was to extend to the King himself. In a passage of Magna Charta, it was ordained that twenty-five barons should be nominated to see that the terms of the charter were not infringed, then four barons were to call upon them for re-

dress. If this were not granted, then the four barons were to return to their brethren, by whom the people were to be called together to take up arms, and assert their rights. Such an act was not considered in old times as an act of treason towards the King, however hostile it might be towards his ministers. But this does not apply to me. I had no intention of joining in any scheme whatever, either to put down my King, or to murder his ministers. I was entrapped by Goldworthy and Edwards, in order for some private purposes of their own, that they might have my life sworn away. I have no objection to tender my life in the service of my country; but let me at least, for the sake of my children, save my character from the disgrace of dying a traitor. For my children only do I feel, and when I think of them I am deprived of utterance—I can say no more."

James Ings was next asked what he had to say why he should not receive judgment to die? He replied: "I have very little to say. My abilities will not allow me to speak. If Mr. Edwards had not got acquainted with me I should not be here; he came to me, unfortunately, when I had no business, nor no means of getting a living for my family. I entered into the conspiracy only through him, and it was only necessity and the want of the means to support my wife and family that brought me here. It is only through Edwards that I shall lose my life. I do not mind dying, if you will let that man come forward, and die with me on the scaffold. It was through him that I was going to do that which, I must allow, was of a most disgraceful and inhuman nature. On the other hand, his Majesty's ministers conspire together and impose laws to starve me and my family and fellow-countrymen; and if I was going to assassinate these minis-

fers, I do not see that it is so bad as starvation, in my opinion, my Lord."

Here Mr. Shelton began to address the prisoner Brunt, but

Ings said: "I am not done. And there is another thing, my Lord: a meeting was called at Manchester, under the protection of the law of England, for which our forefathers died, and which King John signed in the open air. This meeting was called under the protection of that law, for the people to petition Parliament to give them their rights; but, previous to the business of this meeting, the Manchester yeomanry rode in among them, and cut down men, women, and children, in a manner that was a disgrace to the very name of Englishmen. These yeomanry had their swords ground before hand, and I had a sword ground also, but I do not see any harm in that. I shall suffer, no doubt; but I hope my children will live to see justice done to their bleed-

ing country. I would rather die like a man than live like a slave. I am sorry I have not the power, gentlemen, to say more; I shall therefore withdraw."

John Thomas Brunt, in a particularly bold and unembarrassed manner, said he had intended to *have written* the observations which he should make, *but he had not the benefits of ink and paper*. He would repeat what he had before stated to jury on his trial which had been so ably knocked down by the Solicitor-General, whose sophisticated eloquence would make even crime a virtue. He then proceeded to recapitulate the circumstances already stated by him in his defence. He protested against the verdict, not that he valued his life; no man valued it less when it was to be sacrificed in liberty's cause. Looking around him in this Court, and seeing the sword of justice and the inscriptions which were placed on the walls above the

learned Judges, he could only say, that he felt his blood boil in his veins when he thought how Justice was perverted, and her sacred name prostituted to the basest and vilest purposes. He was a man of his word, and not a shuttlecock, as some might suppose. If he pledged himself once to destroy a tyrant, he would do it. Edwards, that infamous villain whom the Solicitor-General had not dared to bring forward, had preyed on his credulity, and Adams had betrayed him. Where was the benefit which would result to Christianity from the able defence made of it by the Solicitor-General? What was Christianity? Why, did its doctrines promulgate so horrid an idea, as that supposing a man to have been a Deist, and all at once to have been converted by seeing the halter staring him in the face, he would therefore be strengthened by Almighty God to become a villain and a perjured betrayer of his associates?

That this was the case with Adams was evident from his own confession. Was this then Christianity? If it was, he prayed God he might die without it; for very different, indeed, were the ideas he had formed of religion. The prisoner then attacked the character of Hale; he was interrupted by

The Lord Chief Justice, who said he would not allow persons and witnesses not before the Court to be vilified in that manner.

Brunt proceeded.—He had an antipathy against none, but the enemies of his country. He was a friend to the lower orders, and, as an honest man, had a fellow feeling for his countrymen, who were starving thro' the conduct of ministers. Lord Castlereagh and Lord Sidmouth had an antipathy against the people, and if he did conspire to murder them, was that high treason? He readily acknowledged that he had agreed to assassinate ministers, but he de-

nied having ever conspired to dethrone or injure the Monarch. But if resisting the civil power, or opposing wicked ministers, was treason, then he confessed he was guilty. He was no traitor to his country—he was no traitor to his King, but a loyal and dutiful subject, who had never suffered his Sovereign to be abused when he was present; but he was an enemy to a boroughmongering faction, which equally enslaved both the King and the people. The happiness, the glory, and the safety of the King, depended on his being free as well as his people, but this was not the case now. A faction ruled both King and people with lawless sway. He had, by his industry, been able to earn about £3 or £4 a-week, and while this was the case, he never meddled with politics; but when he found his income reduced to 10s. a-week, he began to look about him, and to ask to what that could be owing? And what did he find?

Why, men in power, who met to deliberate how they might starve and plunder the country. He looked on the Manchester transactions as most dreadful, and thought that nothing was too severe for men who had not only caused, but even applauded, the dreadful scenes which had occurred there. With pleasure he would die as a martyr in liberty's cause for the good of his country; and to have been avenged on her tyrants, would have given him pleasure to have died on the spot. He was not a traitor, nor the friend of a traitor, and he was only a villain who could call him so. While a nerve of his body could move, that should and would be exerted against the enemies of the people. He had joined the conspiracy for the public good. He was not the man who would have stopt. O no: he would have gone through with it to the very bottom, or else have perished in the attempt. Their death was necessary for the pub-

lic good. They might quarter his body, they might inflict on him every species of torture, but they could not shake his resolution nor subdue his spirit. He would mount the scaffold with the same intrepidity he now evinced, and if his life was called for, if his wife was to be made a widow and his child an orphan, in this mighty cause he would cheerfully sacrifice it. He would die as the descendant of an ancient Briton.

Richard Tidd was the next called upon. He spoke as follows: "My Lords and Gentlemen, being only found guilty so late last night, I have not had an opportunity to make up any defence. All I can say is, and I positively swear it, that the evidence that has come before you, with the exception of that of Capt. Fitzclarence, is utterly false."

James Wilson said, "I am not gifted with the power of talking much, but I mean to say that I was drawn into this by

John Harrison—"I likewise was brought into it by Edwards."

John Shaw Strange—"I have this much to say to the evidence of Mr. Brunt's apprentice, likewise that of Adams: I declare solemnly to God they are both perjured villains."

James Gilchrist—"What I shall say in the presence of my God and you is, until the Wednesday evening at four o'clock, I knew nothing about the business. I was going to look for work, and I had neither money nor bread. So I went to what I was told was to be a supper of the Radicals. (Here the prisoner was overcome by his feelings.) At six o'clock, I met C. Cooper, who was the only man I knew, and I borrowed a halfpenny of him, which, with another, enabled me to get a penny-worth of bread, and this I eat very sweet. I wish I may never come out of this place if I tell false. We then went into the stable and up stairs, where

there was some bread and cheese. I took an old sword and hewed down the loaf, of which others who were as hungry as me partook. I then asked what all these arms were about, and when I heard, I was so shocked that I was determined to get away as fast as I could. Soon after the officers and soldiers came, and I thought it my duty to surrender. I now stand here convicted of high treason, after I served my King and country for twelve years, and this is the recompense!—O God!—I have nothing more to say.”

Here the prisoner stood back in an agony of tears. He is a Scotsman, and spoke with his native accent. His manner altogether was extremely impressive, and his language seemed to be that of simple truth.

Charles Cooper said he had much to say, but his friends thought it would be imprudent. He could only declare that he was not guilty of the crime imputed to him.

Gilchrist again came forward, and said he was very willing to give up his life if it could save that of a fellow-creature. He had already tendered it to save one of the poor men by his side. He never thought of such a thing as to take any man's life.

The Crier of the Court now proclaimed silence in the usual manner, while sentence of death was passing upon the prisoners—

The Lord Chief Justice then proceeded to address the prisoners separately by their respective names, making a distinction between those who had withdrawn their pleas of “Not Guilty,” and pleaded “Guilty,” and those who had been convicted by juries of their country. If any of them should ultimately have their lives spared, which he trusted would be the case, he hoped they would always bear in mind that they owed that life to the benignity and merciful disposition of their Sovereign, aided and seconded

also by the merciful dispositions of those very persons upon whom they had contemplated the foul crime of assassination. One of them, Arthur Thistlewood, had upon his trial proposed to call certain witnesses, whom the Court had refused to hear. This refusal was according to the due course of justice, as it was administered in this country. The witnesses he proposed to call, were for the purpose of impugning the testimony of a man of the name of Dwyer, and no other. His learned counsel had previously called witnesses to the same effect. It could not be allowed to him, according to the ordinary course of proceeding, to do more. Indeed, even if he had been allowed so to do, it could have been productive of no advantage, because his case did not depend upon the evidence of that witness alone. This observation was confirmed by the fact, that, in subsequent cases, where the evidence of Dwyer was altogether omitted, a similar verdict was returned. Some of them had thought fit to say much of the character of a person who had not appeared as a witness upon this occasion. The Court could proceed only upon the evidence which was brought before it. Of the person, therefore, to whom they alluded, or of the practices of which he had been guilty, they could have no knowledge. Upon the testimony, however, which had been adduced against them, there was abundantly sufficient to induce a jury of their country to come to a conclusion that the whole of them had taken an active part in the crimes imputed in the indictment. From all that had appeared in the course of these trials, as well as from much of that which they had then heard, it was plain to see, that they did not embark in their wicked designs until they had first suffered their minds to be corrupted and inflamed by those seditious and

irreligious publications, with which, unhappily for this country, the press had but too long teemed. He did not make these remarks to aggravate their guilt, or to enhance the sufferings of persons in their situation. He made them as a warning to all who might hear of their unfortunate fate, that they might benefit by their example, and avoid those dangerous instruments of sedition, by which their hearts and minds were inflamed, and by which they were drawn from every feeling of morality—from every sense of obligation towards their Creator, and of justice towards society. The treason of which they were charged and found guilty, was that of compassing and imagining to levy war against his Majesty, for the purpose of inducing him to change his measures and ministers;—the first step towards effecting which, was to have been the assassination of the cabinet ministers. They had endeavoured

now to complain of the testimony of those persons who had been examined as witnesses on the part of the prosecution. Some of them were accomplices in their guilt. It had there happened, as it had upon other occasions, that the principal instruments in the hands of justice, were the partners of their wickedness; and he trusted that circumstance would have its due weight and consideration with all those who became acquainted with their situation, and with the circumstances of their trial. He hoped, that for the sake of their own personal safety, if they could not be restrained by any other consideration, that they would abstain from evil communications, and from evil connexions, such as had brought the prisoners in the unhappy position in which they stood. Some of them had avowed their intention to have taken away the lives, and to have steeped their hands in the blood of fourteen persons, to many of them.

unknown—a crime of a character so black, that it was hitherto without parallel in the history of the country, and he hoped it would remain unparalleled hereafter.—(His Lordship here appeared considerably agitated.)—It now, he said, only remained for him to pass upon them the awful sentence of the law; but before he did so, he exhorted them, he implored them, to employ the time yet left to them in this life, in endeavouring, by prayer, to obtain mercy from that Almighty Power, before whom they would shortly appear. The mercy of Heaven might be obtained by all those who would unfeignedly and with humility express contrition for their offences, and seek that mercy through the merits of their blessed Redeemer.

[This appeal seemed to be lost on Thistlewood, who, with careless indifference, pulled out his snuff-box, some of the contents of which he took, casting

his eyes round the court. His indifference was the more conspicuous when contrasted with the solemn manner in which the Lord Chief Justice addressed the prisoners.]

His Lordship having once more solemnly exhorted the prisoners to repentance, pronounced the sentence of the law in the following words:—

“That you, and each of you, be taken to the gaol from whence you came, and from thence that you be drawn upon a hurdle to a place of execution, and be there hanged by the neck until you be dead; and that afterwards your heads shall be severed from your bodies, and your bodies be divided into four quarters, to be disposed of as his Majesty shall think fit. And may God of his infinite goodness have mercy upon your souls!” The cried said aloud, “Amen!”

The prisoners were then removed from the bar. They did

not seem much affected, but departed with great firmness and resignation, particularly Davidson, Thistlewood, and Brunt. Tidd complained of the weight of his irons.

The Chief Justice said he was sure the gaoler would grant him every indulgence consistent with his safety.

Such, my dear Son, was the scene at the *Condemnation* of these courageous men. Read the account all over again. Mark every word that was said by them. And now, what do you think of *Edwards*? *Who employed him*, do you think? *Who gave him the money*? *How did he get the money to give to them*? I shall show you, in another letter, that the base wretches, who own the *COURIER* newspaper, have been, within these few days, *JUSTIFYING the employment of spies*, and even of *spies*, whose business it is to *seduce*!

The Judge, you see, said a

good deal against conspiracies; against *assassination*, and against *sedition* and *blasphemous publications*: but not a word did he say against *spies*, or against the *hirers of spies*; though all the accused have complained, that *EDWARDS* had been kept out of Court; and though divers witnesses had sworn to his attempts to *seduce them*! You have read a great deal about the *deluders* and *seducers* of the people; but, here we have a *proved* seducer. He was not only the seducer of the Conspirators themselves; but he was proved to have *endeavoured to seduce* others, who did not become Conspirators, who resisted his attempts; and yet, nothing do we hear said by the Judge *against this nefarious miscreant*, who is mildly called "a *PERSON not before the Court*."

The Judge observed, that the conviction had arisen out of the evidence of *accomplices*; and this he held out as a warning

to other conspirators; as if he had said: "Take warning by this, ye Radicals all; for, if you attempt any thing of this sort, you will be *sure to be betrayed*." This was like the notices stuck up on garden and park fences: "Beware of steel-straps and spring-guns." However, this may possibly have a *contrary* effect. It may make men more *distrustful*, and that is all. It may make them BELLINGHAMS and LOUELS, instead of THISTLEWOODS. The best mode of preventing acts such as the Conspirators had in contemplation is to prevent *the wish to commit them*; and the best way to prevent this wish, is to restore the laws to the state in which they were before any such acts were ever heard of in England.

It was observed by the Judge, that the object of the conspiracy was *without a parallel* in the annals of this country, and that he trusted in God it would remain without a parallel. Very

good; but so was the *Manchester attack* without a parallel: the *Six Acts* are without a parallel: the *Clergy Indemnity Act* is without a parallel: *bannishment for libel* is without a parallel: *bail before-hand*, to pay libellers' fines, is without a parallel: punishment for publishing *cheap pamphlets* is without a parallel: the *Bank protecting Acts* are without a parallel: the *Ellenborough Act*, under which Maggenis was tried and executed, is without a parallel: nay, the *very act*, under which the Conspirators were convicted, and for which they suffered death, is without a parallel: *Oliver, Castles, Edwards, and their acts*, are without a parallel: all these, and numerous other things that we behold and endure, are *without a parallel in this country*, which, as to its *laws*, and as to the *rights and liberties* of the people, has, within these thirty years, undergone a *great revolution*. Therefore, is it very surprising.

that the manner of acting amongst private men should have undergone a change too? As long as the people could *freely and safely meet* to petition, and to discuss *publicly* all the subjects of their complaint, we heard of none of these conspiracies. As long as the press was even tolerably free, we heard of none of them. Yet, this is a train of thought that appears never to come athwart the minds either of prosecutors or judges. Obvious as the facts are; inevitable as is the conclusion; never does either appear to present itself to the minds of these persons.

You will perceive, that, all the way through, great efforts were made to trace the conspiracy back to the "*sedition* and *blasphemous*" publications, as they are called; and that the Judge, in passing sentence, ascribed the conspiracy principally to this cause. Now, observe, that neither witnesses nor prisoners said that this was

the case. During the examination of CHAMBERS, one of the witnesses on the trial of TIDD and DAVIDSON, there happened something well worthy of public attention. He had sworn, that "ADAMS and EDWARDS" brought to his house a quantity of weapons, on the morning before the 23d of February, and wished to leave them there; but which he refused to allow; and also, that "these two invited him to a meeting on the twenty-third."—Mark this. When CHAMBERS was leaving the court, the Judge (Garrow) called him back; and then the following dialogue took place:

"JUDGE—Do you know what book you have been sworn upon?"

"CHAMBERS—I suppose it is the Prayer-Book.

"JUDGE—No: it is not: it is the Bible.

"CHAMBERS—That is all the same, I suppose?

"JUDGE—Pray, *what books* do you generally read?

“ CHAMBERS--I read no books,
“ except *the Bible and Cobbett's*
“ *Register*, and I believe I have
“ read all of them.

“ JUDGE—You could not read
“ *worse books than Cobbett's Re-*
“ *gister*.

“ CHAMBERS—I think, my
“ Lord, *I could not read a bet-*
“ *ter*; for, by following *Cob-*
“ *bett's advice* I have kept out
“ of many hobbles and squab-
“ bles. (*Excessive laughing*
“ *in the court.*)

“ JUDGE—You may go.”

But, what say the conspirators themselves? Do they say, or can it be inferred from what they say, that they were urged on by the reading of my book, or of any book, or any paper, whatever? No such thing. They all say, that they were made discontented by the miseries of their country, which they traced to the government; that their minds were inflamed with indignation by the proceedings at Manchester, and especially by the letter of Lord Sidmouth ap-

proving of the conduct of the Magistrates and the Yeomanry, and by the impunity of these persons; that, when they were in this state of mind, they were urged on by EDWARDS, who not only advised them to kill the Ministers, but who found money to purchase arms and ammunition with, and who gave Thistlewood money besides.—This is what they say; this is their dying declaration; and, what ground is there, then, for ascribing the conspiracy to publications of any sort?

The speeches of these men were, I dare say, unexpected by the court. The admirers of aristocracy and the despisers of the “ Lower Orders” may say what they will about Russell and Sidney; but, how low do these “ great men” sink, when compared to these “ Lower-Order” men! These were found guilty and condemned, and so were Russell and Sidney; but, the former behaved with a thousand times as much courage and

calmness as the latter; and a thousand times as much *talent* too! There is this to observe also: that they all disclaimed every *private consideration*.—They all said, that they had *no personal revenge to gratify*.—They all said, that they intended the blow *for the good of their country*. It signifies nothing that their opinions and views were erroneous. It is with the *facts* that we have to do, on this occasion; and, it does seem to be a monstrous inconsistency to charge men with *levying war* and to call them *assassins* at the same moment.

Observe, moreover, that they disclaim all thought of conspiring against *the king*. No idea of hostility to him, or any of his family, appear to have entered their minds. His *irresponsibility* appears to have made a practical part of their political creed. If they had imbibed this from the Cheap Publications, surely this was one good effect of those publications.

Further comment on their conduct at the *Bar* is unnecessary; only justice to the memory of BRUNT demands, that I state, that the speech, above given as his, and which I take from the newspapers, does not, I am well informed, contain a *tenth part* of what he really said. His speech has, by a gentleman who heard it, been described to me as one of the most eloquent that ever was heard. He entered fully into the evils of the country; into the causes of discontent; and concluded by arguments, in justification of his conduct, which astounded all around him. *All* that he said ought to be in *print*: the *king* ought to have it to read: the people ought to have it: the world ought to have it. But, the *press* is in such a state *now* that such a speech, though necessary to be read by all, will be read by no man in England.

EXECUTION.

If the last words of even men who die of a *dropsy* are looked

upon as of importance, what must the last words be of such men as those, of whose end I am now giving an account?

From the time of *conviction*, the Prison-Parson, called the Ordinary, whose name is COTTON, began, as is usual, I suppose, to tender his services to the Conspirators, which services they declined to accept of; and this, with the exception of DAVIDSON (who was a *Mulatto*) they continued to do to the last. There needed nothing more to set the charitable press to work to revile them as *Deists*; and to recommend their being *separated*, and shut up *singly in cells*, in order to "*bring them to their senses*." And these cells and their accompaniments are sufficient to subdue the stoutest heart that ever beat in human body! The cells are by the side of a long, dark, arched passage, which has a feeble lamp, glimmering at each end of it. Out of this horrid cavern you go to each cell, which is very small,

which is lighted by a little faint lamp, and which has a little hole in the wall against the passage, to let in air. The walls are several feet thick of stone, bound together with iron. The door of massy iron. Yet, such were the *precautions*, that, though in such cells and with irons on their limbs, *two armed men were stationed in each cell*. If all this could not *convert* them, it is hard to say what would have done it.

In this situation they were again visited by the Parson, whose services they declined to avail themselves of; but DAVIDSON wished to have a Methodist Parson to visit him, which, as the COURIER informs us, was *refused* upon the ground, that so *illiterate* a person was not fit for the thing. At last, *as we are told*, he took the sacrament, or, as the COURIER calls it, "*the sacred elements*," from the hands of DOCTOR COTTON. This shows, pretty clearly, that *religion* had nothing to do with the matter. And, indeed, though

these men have been called *De-*
ists in the way of abuse, not a
man of them ever made any
declaration to justify such an
assertion.

They were all married men,
and, on the *Sunday* afternoon,
they were permitted to see their
wives for *an hour*, and no longer;
and *no friend* was suffered to go
near them. All the Sunday was
employed in preparations for the
work of death on the next morn-
ing. Strong fences of posts and
rails were put up, at several
places, across the streets leading
to the little square, or rather
triangle, called the *Old Bailey*,
on one of the sides of which the
prison of Newgate stands. A
scaffold was erected opposite,
but very near to the door, out of
which the Conspirators were to
be brought. Baricadoes were
erected at some yards distance
all around this scaffold, so that
the people, when forced beyond
these, could not hear what the
Conspirators might say.

It was (as even the *COURIER*

tells us) the intention, at first,
to erect a scaffold *upon the flat*
top of the prison, and pieces of
timber were really seen there on
the Sunday Morning. If that
had been done, Mr. HORNE
TOOKE's prophesy would have
been completely fulfilled. It
was, at last, however, resolved
to erect the scaffold on the
ground. But, the MILITARY
PREPARATIONS were, in con-
sequence, prodigious. There had
been a *considerable body of*
soldiers in the prison, during
the whole time that the conspi-
rators had been there. But *now*
all the streets leading to the
place of execution were filled
with soldiers. A body of sol-
diers was stationed at about
forty yards from the scaffold.
CANNONS, with a *body of Ar-*
tillery men, were stationed a
little way off, with every thing
in readiness for action. In
short, if it had been the de-
sign of the government, to
cause a belief that the Conspira-
tors were dear to a great part

of the people; to make their deaths a matter of great national importance; and to cause their memories to live down to late posterity; had this been its design, its measures could not have been better contrived to answer those ends.

When the time of execution arrived, the people, who had got within the nearest barricado, were driven out; so that, on the average, they were, by one means or another, kept at *thirty yards* from the scaffold. This almost precluded the possibility of hearing what the Conspirators should say; but, there were some persons permitted to remain, and, from these some account has been gathered and published.

Mr. THISTLEWOOD marched up to his post on the scaffold with a composed countenance, and bowed to the people. Before he was turned off, he said, in a firm tone of voice, "*I desire all here to remember, that I die in the cause of liberty,*

and that my last breath is given to that cause."

TIDD said nothing. Just before he ascended the scaffold, he uttered, "*My poor wife and*" but could proceed no further. He behaved in the most calm and firm manner. He surveyed the MASKED Executioner, the halter, the knife, the coffins and the block, with a steady eye. Not a muscle of his face appeared to move.

DAVIDSON appeared to pray; but said nothing that any body could hear.

INGS jumped boldly up on the scaffold, singing, "*O, give me death or liberty;*" which is the chorus of a famous old English Song. He gave *three cheers*, which were returned by the people. Seeing a newspaper reporter taking notes, he said: "*I die an enemy to tyrants. Write down that, Sir.*"

BRUNT, who was kept till last, asked the reason of that, and said, he supposed that they "*were afraid to give him time*

"to speak to the people." When he came on the scaffold, and saw the soldiers, "*What!*" he exclaimed, "*Soldiers here! Dare they not execute us without the aid of an army! Ah! there must be a military government then, I see. Nothing else will do for this country, unless there be a good many such as we.*"

The executioner, who wore a MASK, cut off the heads with a knife. The people testified "*their evil spirit,*" as the COURIER calls it, "*by hissing, groaning, and by crying out, murder, murder, murder.*"

The dead bodies and heads were put into coffins, and *carried into the prison.* The people soon dispersed, and the army was marched away, by degrees, in the course of the day.

The wives of the deceased were naturally anxious to obtain the dead bodies of their husbands, that they might have them buried. But, these bodies even were, it appears, objects

of precaution. MRS. THISTLEWOOD, on the morning after the execution, presented a petition in the following words:

To his Majesty King George the Fourth.

The Petition of Susan Thistlewood, widow of the late Arthur Thistlewood,

Most Humbly Sheweth,

That your Majesty's dutiful subject, the deeply afflicted widow of the late Arthur Thistlewood, has made most earnest applications to the Sheriffs of Middlesex for the body of her late beloved, faithful and affectionate husband, and that, alas! she has made this application in vain: That your humble Petitioner, previous to the death of her beloved husband, made, jointly with him, the humble request of being permitted to sever and to take into her keeping a Lock of his Hair, and that

this request was refused her: That she, therefore, with all humility, makes this effort to cause her supplications to reach the ear of your Majesty, and she most humbly implores your Majesty to be graciously pleased to grant, that the now cold and mangled remains of her dear departed husband, which the law has placed at your Majesty's disposal, may be delivered to her, in order that she may have the consolation of performing towards them the last mournful duties.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

SUSAN THISTLEWOOD.

To this petition she received for answer, at the office of LORD SIDMOUTH, to whom the petition had been delivered, that her husband WAS BURIED! It is *said* that the bodies are buried IN THE PRISON; but, so closely is every thing kept; so awful does every creature in

authority look; so penetrating are they become; such a dread seems to hang over their minds, that people do not *venture to ask questions* about any thing of the sort. What do you think must be the state of England, when the wives of these men were not permitted to see them until the women had been examined from the crown of their heads to the sole of their feet; till their stockings and shoes had been taken off, and even their *caps taken off* and their *hair untied and let down*? Why not give the bodies to the wives? Ah! you must *guess*; for I dare not tell you what *I think* was the reason!

Great efforts have been made to make the world believe, that the Conspirators were *wholly destitute of religion*. What ground is there for this? They refused, four of them, to accept of the services of the Prison-Parson. What of that? Would not a *quaker* have done the same thing? Aye, and so would

any man, who understood religion as well as the Parson could understand it; or, at least, any man might *reasonably* so act; and, observe, these men were not in a temper to do any thing, which they supposed might be a sort of concession to any one in *authority*, be he who or what he might. They all said, that they believed in God, and relied on his forgiveness for any *offences* that they might have committed; but, they would not acknowledge, in any shape whatever, that what they were to die for was *an offence against God*. This appears to have been the real ground of their objection to accept of the services of the Parson.

No proof has been produced of either of them being men of *immoral characters*. Strong presumptive proofs of the contrary appear in the whole of their conduct. INGS has been called *brutal, ferocious*, and every thing that is bad. And where is the *proof*? Why, he almost *bantered* with the executioner. And you know, when SIR THOMAS MOORE was executed for High Treason, he *quite bantered* with the executioner. He, who wore a long beard, as was the fashion in those days, told the

fellow to stop, till he pulled his beard out of the way: "Do not chop that off too," said he, "for my *beard* has not committed treason." This has been *admired*, and trumpeted up, for ages, as a proof of extraordinary *bravery* in meeting death; but INGS, who very far surpassed, in this respect, SIR THOMAS MOORE, is charged with *indecent and hardened and brutal levity*! But, what INGS was as a moral and religious man; what he was as a *husband* and a *father* and a *son*, let the following letters, written by him on the night before his execution, proclaim to the world.

TO HIS WIFE.

"My dear Celia—I hardly know how to begin, or what to say, for the laws of tyrants have parted us for ever. My dear, this is the last time you will ever hear from me. I hope you will perform your duty without delay, which is for the benefit of yourself and children, which I have explained to you before. My dear, of the anxiety and regard I have for you and the children, I know not how to explain myself; but I must die according to law, and leave you in a land full of corruption, where jus-

" tice and liberty has taken their
 " flight from, to other distant
 " shores. My dear, I have heard
 " men remark that they would
 " not marry a widow, not with-
 " out her husband was hanged.—
 " Now, my dear, I hope you will
 " bear in mind that the cause of
 " my being consigned to the
 " scaffold was a pure motive.

" I thought I should have
 " rendered my starving fellow-
 " men, women, and children,
 " a service; and my wish is,
 " when you make another
 " choice, that this question you
 " put before you tie the fatal
 " knot. My dear, it is of no
 " use for me to make remarks
 " respecting my children. I am
 " convinced you will do your
 " duty as far as lies in your
 " power. My dear, your leav-
 " ing me but a few hours be-
 " fore I wrote these few lines,
 " I have nothing more to say.
 " Farewel, farewel, my dear
 " wife and children, for ever.
 " Give my love to your mother
 " and Elizabeth: I conclude a
 " constant lover to you and
 " your children, and all friends.
 " I die the same, but an enemy
 " to all tyrants.

" JAMES INGS."

" P. S. My dear wife, give my
 " love to my father and brother,

" brother and sisters, and aunt
 " Mary, and beg of them to
 " think nothing of my unfortu-
 " nate fate, for I am gone out
 " of a very troublesome world,
 " and I hope you will let it pass
 " like a summer cloud over the
 " earth.

" Newgate, four o'clock, Sunday
 " afternoon, April 30, 1820."

TO HIS DAUGHTERS.

" To my dear Daughters,—
 " My dear little girls, receive
 " my kind love and affection,
 " once more, for ever, and adhere
 " to these my sincere wishes,
 " and recollect, though in a
 " short time, you will have no-
 " thing more of your father.
 " Let me entreat you to be
 " loving, kind, and obedient to
 " your poor mother, and strive
 " all in your powers to comfort
 " her, and assist her whilst you
 " exist in this transitory world,
 " and let you conduct through-
 " out life be that of virtue, ho-
 " nesty, and industry; and en-
 " deavour to avoid all tempta-
 " tion, and at the same time put
 " your trust in God. I hope
 " unity, peace, and concord will
 " remain amongst you all. Fare-
 " wel,—farewel, my dear chil-
 " dren, your unfortunate father,

" JAMES INGS."

TO HIS SON.

" My dear little boy, Wm.
 " Stone Ings, I hope you will
 " live to read these few lines
 " when the remains of yr. poor
 " father is mouldered to dust.
 " My dr. boy, I hope you will
 " bear in mind the unforte. end
 " of your father, and not place
 " any confidence in any person
 " or persons whatever; for the
 " deception, the corruption, and
 " the ingenuity in man I am at
 " a loss to comprehend—it is
 " beyond all calculation. My
 " dear boy, I hope you will
 " make a bright man in society;
 " and it appears to me the road
 " you ought to pursue is, to be
 " honest, sober, industrious, and
 " upright in all your dealings;
 " and to do unto all men as you
 " would wish they should do
 " unto you. My dear boy, put
 " your trust in one God; and be
 " cautious of every shrewd, de-
 " signing, flattering tongue.—
 " My dear boy, be a good, kind,
 " and obedient child to your
 " poor mother, and comfort her,
 " and be a loving brother to
 " your sisters. My dear boy,
 " I sincerely hope and trust you
 " will regard these, my last in-

" structions.—Yr. loving and un-
 " forte. father,

" JAMES INGS.

" Newgate, Sunday night, 8 o'clock,
 April 30, 1820.'

Was *this*, my dear James, an
immoral and *impious* man? Let
 the Parsons club their talents,
 and see if they can produce any
 thing to surpass this. You see,
 he wrote at *four o'clock* and
 again at *eight o'clock*. See how
 anxious he was for the welfare,
 the happiness, the good beha-
 viour and good character of his
 wife and children! Consider his
 situation; and then admire the
 mind that could, under such cir-
 cumstances, so busy itself! If
 these letters had, under similar
 circumstances, been written by
 some royal or noble person, the
 world would never have heard
 the last of them. His mind
 seems to have been wholly in-
 tent upon his *real duties*. He
 was going to leave the world;
 and yet how anxious he was,
 that his children should be duti-
 ful to their mother, kind and
 loving to each other, and that
 his " dear little boy" should
 make a *bright man*! This was
 true *disinterestedness*, and an
 infallible proof of *real greatness*
 of mind; aye, greatness of
 mind far, and very far surpass-

ing that of any man of whom history gives us an account. Yet INGS was one of the despised "*Lower Orders*;" and was born, I believe, in some little thatched cottage on the skirts of *Sherril Heath*!

Mr. THISTLEWOOD and TIDD were Lincolnshire men; BRUNT was a Welshman; INGS was a Hampshireman, born, we are told, at *Sherril Heath*, only about two miles from *Botley*; DAVIDSON was born at *Liverpool*.

Thus, my dear Son, I have given you a fair account of this

really important event. It has not been my object to offer *opinion*; but merely to lay facts fairly before you. This is the best way to proceed in such cases, and under such circumstances. Dismal as things appear, no man ought to despair. England must still be a great and free country; and, I trust, that nothing will ever make you cease to wish for her happiness and prosperity.

God bless you.

WM. COBBETT.